

Minutes of a Called Meeting of the City Council:
Austin Texas Dec. 17th 1896.

Hon. Lewis Hancock, Mayor, presiding.
Roll called.

Present, Aldermen Beatty, Glass, Goeth, Haynes, Horton, Lawless, Linn,
Kitchner, Platt, Powell, Redd, Robertson, Rosengren, Schneider, Shelley,
Stumpf, Taylor, Townsend and Zilker. 19.

Absent Aldermen Fisher, Glascott and Tobin 3.

The following call of the Council was then read:

Mayor's Office,

Austin Texas Dec. 17th 1896

A special called meeting of the City Council is hereby called to meet in
the City Council Chamber at 8 o'clock P.M. this day, to receive reports
from the various committees and to act on same, to ascertain and
declare the result of the election held on the 4th of December last, and
to install the newly elected Aldermen.

Lewis Hancock, Mayor.

City Marshal's certificate
& serving of call

Austin Texas Dec. 17th 1896, 1 P.M.

I hereby certify that the following named Aldermen have been
served with a copy of the above call by having it read to each of
them in person, viz: Beatty, Fisher, Glass, Goeth, Haynes, Horton, Lawless,
Linn, Kitchner, Platt, Powell, Redd, Robertson, Rosengren, Schneider,
Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor, Tobin, Townsend and Zilker, and that Alder-
man Glascott has been served by a true copy having been left
at his last known place of residence in the City.

James S. McCoy, City Marshal.

Cov. & 3 appointed to canvas the election returns, which motion prevailed and the Mayor
Schneider, Shelley & Redd, Com. appointed Aldermen Schneider, Shelley and Redd such Committee.

Alderman Taylor moved to now proceed with the regular order, carried.

Water & Light Com. ask for Alderman Fisher for the Water and Light Committee, to whom was
further time in regard to In-referred the report of the Superintendent of the Water & Light Plant,
Insurance of Oldgo & Sherry in regard to insurance on the Power House and machinery, asked for
further time in which to make their report, which was upon motion, granted.

Special Com. to canvas the election returns report presented the following report:

Hon. Lewis Hancock Mayor and Board of Aldermen:

Gentlemen: Your committee appointed to canvas the returns of an
election held Monday December 4th 1896, have examined the returns,
Aldermen elected as follows, beg leave to report as follows:

For Alderman First Ward	Vt. s.
B. W. Powell received	770
W. Pragio received	<u>130</u>
J. W. Wadsworth	81
For Alderman Second Ward,	
J. W. Wadsworth received	75.

Approved, J. W. Wadsworth

A. C. York received 147
Maddox majority \$5
For Alderman, Third Ward.

Francis Fischer received 169

W. B. Allen received 39
Fischer's majority 130

For Alderman, Fourth Ward.

Thos. J. Taylor received 89

Joseph Schubel received 81
Taylor's majority 8

For Alderman Fifth Ward

W. W. Townsend received 159

L. M. Crooker received 171
Townsend's majority 38

For Alderman Sixth Ward

A. M. Belvin received 215

J. S. Crawford received 145
Belvin's majority 40

For Alderman Seventh Ward

J. B. Nitshke received 334

George D. Walton received 136

Nitshke's majority 198

For Alderman Eighth Ward

H. L. Haynes received 210

L. C. Dunn received 60

Haynes' plurality 170

For Alderman Ninth Ward

C. Blatt received 77

For Alderman Tenth Ward

Joseph Rehm received 250

M. A. Chase received 241

J. O. Bohemus received 12

Rehm's plurality 9

For Alderman Eleventh Ward

W. D. Miller received 107

Robert Neumann received 76

J. O. Rushman received 4

Miller's plurality 26

J. P. Schneider

M. D. Shelley

W. C. Redd.

3rd Ward Francis Fischer

4th Ward Thos. J. Taylor

5th Ward W. W. Townsend

6th Ward A. M. Belvin

7th Ward J. B. Nitshke

8th Ward H. L. Haynes

9th Ward R. Blatt

10th Ward Cos. Helm

11th Ward W. D. Miller

The Mayor declared the above report of the Committee was adopted, and the Mayor declared the following named gentlemen duly and constitutionally elected to serve as Aldermen of their respective Wards for the ensuing two years, viz: G. P. Powell, First Ward; S. W. Maddox, Second Ward; Francis Fischer, Third Ward; Thomas B. Taylor Fourth Ward; W. W. Townsend Fifth Ward; J. H. Belvin Sixth Ward; M. A. Chase, Seventh Ward; H. L. Haynes Eighth Ward; C. Blatt Ninth Ward; J. P. Schneider Tenth Ward, and W. D. Miller Eleventh Ward.

Eleventh Ward.

Cou. of 3 appointed to intro-
duce newly elected Aldermen

Aldermen elect take oath
of Office. Roll called.

Alderman Glass moved that a committee of three be appointed to introduce the newly elected Aldermen, which motion prevailed and the chair appointed Aldermen Glass, Beatty and Horton, who then introduced the ^{newly} elected Aldermen and oath of office was then administered to each of them by Recorder Carlton. Roll called.

Present Aldermen Beatty, Belvin, Fischer, Haynes, Horton, Kuhn, Lawless,
Linn, Maddox, Miller, Nitchev, Platt, Powell, Redd, Roberdran, Rosen-
gren, Schneider, Shelley, Stumpf, Taylor, Townsend and Zilkert.

Absent at one:

Council proceed to elect a President of the Board Tellers Stumpf, Townsend & Belvin of a President of the Board of Aldermen, which motion prevailed. The Mayor appointed Aldermen Stumpf, Townsend and Belvin as Tellers.

Nominations:

Alderman Shelley
" Linn.

1st Ballot
no election

Nominations for President of the Board of Aldermen bring in order Alderman Fischer nominated Alderman Shelley.

Alderman Powell nominated Alderman Linn. Aldermen Redd and Platt seconded the nomination of Alderman Linn.

The Tellers announced the following as the result of the first ballot:

Alderman Shelley received 10 votes.

Alderman Linn received 10 votes.

No one having received a majority of all the votes, a new ballot was ordered.

The result of the second ballot was as follows:

Alderman Linn received 11 votes.

Alderman Shelley received 9 votes.

Alderman Linn having received a majority of all the votes cast, the Mayor declared him duly and constitutionally elected President of the Board of Aldermen for the ensuing term.

Mayor announced following the Mayor announced the appointment of the following Standing Com- Standing Committees for 1894 mittees w/:

Water & Light Committee, Aldermen Fischer, Lawless and Maddox.

Streets, Aldermen Zilkert, Nitchev and Stumpf.

Finances, Aldermen Townsend, Shelley and Taylor.

Parks, Aldermen Schneider, Haynes and Miller.

Fire Department, Aldermen Roberdran, Beatty and Powell.

Police, Aldermen Powell, Haynes and Belvin.

Ordinances, Aldermen Shelley, Schneider and Roberdran.

Claims and Accounts, Aldermen Platt, Horton and Zilkert.

Printing, Aldermen Haynes, Rosengren and Belvin.

Martlets, Aldermen Redd, Horton and Kuhn.

Cemetery, Aldermen Horton, Rosengren and Townsend.

Sanitation and Sewerage, Aldermen Stumpf, Roberdran and Linn.

Hospital, Aldermen Taylor, Beatty and Kuhn.

Charity, Aldermen Nitchev, Miller and Linn.

Benevolences, Aldermen Linn, Platt and Redd.

Sw. Mayor then read the following message:

May 22, 1894, Austin, Texas, December 17, 1894, a/c.

Mayor's Annual Message
to City Council.

To the Honorable City Council:

Gentlemen, In view of the present condition of the City's finances I think it proper to lay before you such information as I have as to the probable revenue and necessary expenditures, so that you may be as fully informed as possible on the subject before you begin your labors. I shall call your attention first to the financial condition of the Water and Light Department, not only because of its supreme importance, but also because we must rely to some extent upon the earnings of this department for assistance to the General Fund of the City, and we must examine the resources and needs of the Plant before we can determine how much assistance the General Fund can hope for from this source.

I need not do more than call your attention to the fact that our great Plant, though an enormous amount of work has been done upon it, is defective in the details of furnishing an ample supply of pure water and a satisfactory electrical service to the people. It is plain that not only the comfort and health of the people, but the success and development of the Plant itself demand that these defects be remedied at once, no matter what they cost and no matter what sacrifices we make to get the necessary money. I am happy to say however, that in my opinion these defects can be cured in a short time and the Plant kept in perfect working condition during the life of this council, and without going outside the Water and Light Fund and the net earnings of the plant to do so.

The Water Department.

There are two capital defects in this department:

First, lack of ample supply. The Twenty inch main from the Power house into the City can deliver under normal conditions and with safety to the machinery, only 5,000,000 gals. of water per day of twenty four hours while the experience of last summer demonstrated that the demand often exceeded 6,000,000 gallons even with the water tanks we now have.

A new main from the Power house to the City by way of 19th Street would cost about \$40,000.00

Second, lack of pure water. It has been demonstrated over and over again that the water in the lake is frequently unfit for use. The spring, from which so much was hoped, has proved a great disappointment in that during the recent rise of the river it also became muddy and continued so for some six weeks. From observations during this period I became convinced that we could not rely upon the spring as our only source of water supply, even if it were safe to increase the flow by connecting additional pumps, and even if we had the money to make the connections and to lay another main to the City.

In this condition, there are four courses open to us to secure our water supply, any one of which would be practicable if we had the money. First, to sink a well or wells at the Power house. This would cost from ten thousand dollars upward and would necessitate the laying of another main to the City, bringing the total cost to fifty thousand dollars or more. and is therefore impracticable, second, being objectionable for other reasons

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to City Council.

Second, to establish a system of artificial filters at the Powerhouse. This would cost from Fifty to a hundred thousand dollars, besides necessitating another main to the City, and is therefore impracticable, besides being objectionable for other reasons.

Third, to buy one or more of the springs on Barton's Creek and force the water into our system of mains by pumps run by electrical motors taking their power from the present Power house. This plan commends itself for the reason that we would have an inexhaustable supply of pure water, always beyond the reach of floods. If it were capable of being carried out with the means at our disposal, I should ask your serious consideration of it. It would cost from Sixty to Seventy-five thousand dollars, however, and for that reason is at present impracticable.

Fourth, to establish an electric pumping station on the high bank of the Colorado River, somewhere west of the Cotton Compress and to take the naturally filtered water of the river from the sand bank by means of a canal fed by well points. The canal may or may not be covered to protect it from high water in the river, as we see fit. Superintendent Patterson estimates the total cost of this plan including Pump houses, 750 H.P. electric motor, moving one stillwell and Pierce Pump, Canal, and Twenty inch main into the heart of our water system would be Twenty thousand dollars. This is within our means and would give us a four million gallon supply of pure water. The entire practicability of this plan can be ascertained by inspecting the plant of the old water company in the immediate neighborhood of the point suggested.

This plan meets with the approval of the Water and Light Committee and of the Superintendent, and I therefore recommend it to your consideration with a view to early action.

The defects in the Electrical Department are more numerous and more technical in character and can be better presented to you in detail by Subt. Patterson at the proper time. They are confined chiefly to the lack of sufficient dynamos to do the work soon to be required of the Plant, and to the present unfortunate method of transmitting the power from the wheels to the dynamos. After careful investigation of the conditions Subt. Patterson recommends that improvements be made at once by the following purchase and changes:

Shifting g. l. to turn power at right angles in Water Wheels	\$ 6,648.00
Main shaft on 45 foot level, 10 ft. long, from which all dynamos take power	666.00
Changes in floor necessary to set shaft	600.00
One 80 light ore machine and two 750 H.P. power machines	<u>6800.00</u>
Total Cost	\$ 91,714.00

Sundry improvements in the system, such as connecting the Lampie Neum stand pipe with our mains by a twelve inch pipe g. l., would probably amount to \$3000.00 or \$3500.00, making cost of proposed improvements as follows:

New Pumping Station	70,000.00
Improvements in Power House	71,700.00
Sundry improvements, Sundry Jobs	<u>3,500.00</u>
	\$ 15,000.00

Mayor's Annual Message These figures are for charges that are absolutely necessary and are estimated with the utmost economy, so that I recommend that the resources of the Water and Light Plant be husbanded with the utmost care, and certainly that they be left intact to that extent.

There is at present left in the Water and Light Fund the sum of \$8,431.60 but payments out of it on obligations incurred previous to the last fiscal year will probably reduce it to about \$5,000.00.

The receipts of the plant for the last fiscal year, exclusive of sums paid by the City, were \$1,778.00. The receipts will of course continue to increase as the plant is put in more perfect condition and especially as the electric business is developed and pushed. But it must be remembered that we have already nearly all the large consumers. After careful study of the outlook I do not consider it safe to estimate an increase, at our present prices, of more than about Ten thousand dollars which would bring the receipts for this fiscal year to say \$8,000.00.

The operating expenses of the plant for the last fiscal year were a little over \$5,000.00. As the next few months will be a period of construction, and the construction of a new Pumping Station is probable, this outlay is not likely to be reduced during this fiscal year.

The ordinary local extensions of the plant, to get the new business hoped for may be estimated, at \$5,000.00. This makes a total estimated charge upon the Earnings of \$10,000.00 which, deducted from the estimated receipts of \$8,000.00 leaves an estimated balance of \$2,000.00, as the net revenue of the plant. By adding this sum to the balance of \$5,000.00 left in the Water and Light Fund, we have \$3,000.00 as the probable amount available for improvements in the plant and for General revenue purposes. As stated above, the necessary improvements, economically made, are estimated to cost \$5,000.00, which would leave a balance of \$8,000.00 of the Earnings fund which may be safely used for General revenue purposes.

General Revenue.

The General revenue for the present fiscal year as estimated by the Assessor and Collector, is as follows:

General Revenue Tax former years	5,000.00
License Tax.	9,700.00
Recorder's Court	7,400.00
Travis County Gen. Hospital	7,000.00
ound fees and Sales	500.00
Dog Tax	450.00
Miscellaneous.	800.00
General Revenue Tax 1896.	<u>\$11,379.00</u>

Total.	\$ 67,779.00
of which may be used as just shown, as a withdrawal from the Earnings Fund	\$ 67,779.00
The expenditures for account of General Revenue for the last fiscal year as shown by the Annual report of the City Clerk, were as follows:	\$ 67,779.00
Salaries of Officers	\$ 13,845.00
" " Clerks	15,470.00
City Cemetery	558.07
Sanitary Department	4,336.13

Mayor's Annual Message
to City Council.

Fire Department	8,549.05
Street Department	17,013.77
Meals for City Prisoners	470.50
City and County Hospital	4,618.79
Printing, Stationery &c.	2267.11
Charity	1053.81
Water and Light	6,983.80
Salary Board Master	876.00
" Porter	480.00
" Auditor	750.00
" Aldermen	2430.00
Miscellaneous	<u>5,240.01</u>
Total.	\$ 49,787.94

To this must be added the sum of \$10,760.00 due to the old Water Company on judgement, making a total of \$50,547.94. On the other hand, as it is the present policy of the City not to pay to the Savings Fund of the Water and Light Plant for the Water and Light used by the City, there may be deducted from the above amount the sum of \$6,983.80 paid last year on that account, leaving a balance of \$43,564.14 expenditures for the present fiscal year, based upon last year's expenditures. As the estimated General revenue, with the assistance of the Savings Fund, amounts to only \$10,279.09, this shows a deficit of \$13,300.05.

It is plain therefore that to prevent expenditures exceeding receipts, the dishonoring of the City's obligations and all the waste and confusion of a floating debt, the City Council must face the serious problem of cutting down expenditures as compared with last year.

The particular method of doing this rests with you, but it is my duty to point out to you such reductions as can in my opinion be made to the best advantage, and I herewith do so, with the hope that you will give them your careful consideration, and the assurance that if any better method, either in whole or in part, is suggested by you it will meet my hearty approval.

It must be remembered that the salaries of the Charter Officers, except the Mayor and Aldermen, are fixed by the Charter and cannot be diminished during the term for which they were elected. It must be further remembered that the City Government of last year was not extravagant as city governments go, and that there are no one or two departments of the government in which the saving can be effected, but that it must be as nearly as possible distributed among all departments.

Pearing in mind the present hard times and that it is only just that the City should cut down expenses when all its citizens are forced to do so, I recommend to your consideration the following reductions, fully believing that they can be made without material disadvantage to the City and in some cases distinctly to its advantage.

Mayors salary	600.00
One regular meeting of the City Council per month, instead of two, saving	1,370.00

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to City Council.

The following employees dispensed with
Bridge Keepers

Two Mounted Policemen at \$16.00 each, and two foot Policemen at \$10.00 each \$19.00
and require the Superintendent of Streets to take charge of the Chain gang, thereby
releasing one Policeman for regular duty and leaving the net reduction of the
force only three Policemen instead of four

All repairs &c. in the Fire Department should be paid out of the \$3300.00
paid by the City, saving over last year

449.05

Street Work.

In this department I recommend an immediate and radical change in the
method, with a view not only to economy but also to effectiveness.
The Street Department at present comprises the City Engineer at \$100.00
per year, the Superintendent of Streets at \$1080.00 per year, one Policeman
to look after the chain gang, at \$10.00 per year and last year employed
eight drivers, a blacksmith and a hortler at an expenditure of \$148.41
and extra Street Laborers at an expenditure of \$1008.92. Paid out for black-
smithing \$35.65, for Stock feed \$94.44, for Lumber 659.69, for Culvert Pipe
1539.12 and for other items \$14.82, bringing the total expenditure for the
year for street work to \$15,015.77. For this expenditure of money I think
it will not be denied that the City has accomplished comparatively
little. One fairly well made street for about a mile and a quarter
of its length, will probably last for some years. The other street work
is mostly temporary in its character and cannot possibly last over
two or three years, at the end of which time the City will have noth-
ing to show for the money. The fault is not in the management of the
street force, but in the system. I believe the Street Committee and the
City Officers have done the best they could, and the fact that we have
even one good piece of work is due to their effort to introduce some
method into the work. But the vice of the system has been too strong
for them. As at present organized, the street force, consisting of eight
wagons, sixteen miles, ten regular employees and numerous extra
Street Laborers, besides the chain gang is a mere plaything, a toy
to be pulled around from one Ward to another as the activity and
pertinacity of the respective Aldermen may decide. It is a political
machine, which is expected to operate more or less equitably in
each ward at least once a year, without regard to the needs of
city or the condition of the streets. The Aldermen themselves
cannot be blamed for thus treating the force as long as the
present conditions prevail. The Council, as a Council, has no
interest in or control over street work except to judiciously dole out each
month as much or little as can be spared for "extra street labor," without
having any knowledge, as a Council, where or how the money is to be
spent. Each Alderman, instead of publicly presenting the needs of his
Ward, or of the City to the Council, must depend upon persuasion
with the Street Committee, and the Street Committee and the Council
are working at a disadvantage. Furthermore the amount of work
done by the force is notoriously out of proportion to the money it is
cost. The employees are too often idle, doing little, and work as well

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Employees generally do, and there is a general laxness in the management of the force that renders it a most extravagant instrument for street improvements.

For these reasons I recommend that a radical change be made in the whole system, with a view to establishing a complete distinction between repair work proper such as repairing streets already made, filling up and cleaning out after heavy rains &c. and improvements or regular street work. The repair work proper can be done by two teams with the assistance of the chain gang, under the care of the Superintendent of Streets. The improvement of streets can best be done by contract. I therefore recommend that the City sell all except two of its best wagons and teams which shall be kept as above for repair work, and that hereafter all the improvements be done by contract at such places and times and in such amount as shall be prescribed by the Council, according to plans and specifications drawn up by the City Engineer, under the general supervision of the Street Committee and approved of by the Council, such contracts to be let to the lowest and best bidder and performed under the supervision of the City Engineer, and Street Committee. Under such a system the street work would be taken out of the politics, employment under the City thrown open to all the laborers in the City instead of being confined to a favored few, and the City would accomplish at least twice as much in the way of genuine street improvement for the same money as it accomplishes now. By this system the annual cost of the regular street force would be as follows estimated from last year's expenditures:

Pay of two Teams	\$ 960.00
Stock feed, Blacksmithing &c.	<u>\$ 400.00</u>
Total	\$ 1360.00

As the cost of the street force last year, exclusive of the salaries of the City Engineer and Superintendent of Streets, was \$17,016.77, this would leave a balance, upon the basis of last year's expenditures, of \$10,656.77. I am confident that \$6,000.00, judiciously spent upon contract work, would accomplish more than the \$10,000.00 spent last year, besides effecting a saving of \$1655.77 in the disbursements of the General Fund. If the irrigation work can also be done by contract I would favor it, though I have not as yet devised any plan for so doing. If the present system is to be maintained, it would seem desirable, in the present condition of the finances of the City to reduce the force by dispensing with two cartmen and the extra sanitary labor, entailing a reduction of \$1700.00. How far economy can be exercised in the Hospital, Printing, Charity and Miscellaneous accounts depends upon the vigilance and attention to business of the committee, but I believe that with careful attention the expenditures on those accounts may be reduced by say \$1500.00.

The reductions in expenditures above recommended aggregate \$14,136.77. If this sum is deducted from the sum of \$83,569.17 the estimated expenditures for this year based upon last year's disbursements it leaves a balance of \$69,432.42 as the estimated disbursements for this year on account of General revenue. As the estimated revenue was stated at \$40,790,

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an estimated surplus of \$806.77 is shown, which is certainly as small as we can venture upon.

As stated above, the problem of reducing expenses to agree with revenue is a serious one, and I have made the above recommendations only after a prolonged study of the situation and with a view to economise without crippling the City in the performance of its duties. If you can suggest other and better measures of economy I shall be glad to accept them in place of those above suggested, but I cannot too strongly impress upon you my belief that economies of some kind must be effected and to about the amount indicated. The only other alternatives are to take from the Water and Light Plant the means of completing and perfecting it, or to let the City's bills and employes go unpaid, either of which alternatives would meet my unalterable opposition.

In conclusion I desire to call your attention briefly to the important matter of amending our City Charter. As stated to the Council when I first became Mayor, I am earnestly in favor of the creation of a Commission to have exclusive control of the Water and Light Plant, and I am sure the people of the City and the Council favor the same policy. The task of drawing such an amendment so that it shall cover all points and shall provide proper authority for the proposed commission to satisfactorily discharge its duties, is a most important, difficult and delicate one, requiring the best thought and thorough legal knowledge. I therefore ask that the Council authorize the creation of a committee consisting say of four Aldermen, the City Attorney, and four citizens, who shall draw up the proposed amendment as well as others that may seem desirable. In view of the fact that public notice of such action must be given thirty days before such a bill can be considered by the Legislature, I ask that you authorize such committee at your present meeting, so that the committee may be able to report at your next regular meeting on the 21st of this month.

Respectfully,

Lewis Hancock, Mayor.

Alderman Taylor moved that the message be received and printed in full in the minutes of the Council. Carried.

Alderman Taylor then moved that the Mayor be authorized to appoint a Committee of four citizens outside of the Council, and four members of the Council, who, with the Mayor and City Attorney, shall constitute a committee to whom shall be referred that part of the Mayor's message relative to an amendment to the City Charter, and that the balance of the message be laid over until the next meeting of the Council, which motion prevailed.

Alderman Townsend, for the Finance Committee, to whom was referred the Bond of the Superintendent of the Water and Light Plant, presented their report, stating that they were of the opinion that said Bond will fully protect the interest of the City, and recommend that it be accepted and approved.

The report of the Committee was adopted.

Invitation to a social gathering An invitation was read from Mrs. Chester, Vice Chairman, off. of the Board of Aldermen, inviting the Mayor and Board of Aldermen and City Officers to

attend their eleventh annual Ball, to be given at their hall on January
1st 1897, and, on motion, the same was accepted with thanks.
On motion of Alderman Lawless, the Council adjourned.

S. C. O. " / 1896
City Clerk.

Do you want all men to come to the ride of the party.

Do you want all women to come to the ride of the party

WERTYUOPKJHGFDSA-ZXCVBNM. } (' & _ " ; : ; 4567890poiuytrwqzadfgijkl; - . , mnhvuxz/

Do you want all men to come to the ride of the party

Do you want all men to come to the ride of the party

Do you want all men to come to the ride of the party

WERTYUOPKJHGFDSA-ZXCVBNM. }

Do you want all men to come to the ride of the party

Do you want all men to come to the ride of the party

WERTYUOPKJHGFDSA-ZXCVBNM. } (' & _ " ; : ; 4567890poiuytrwqzadfgijkl; - . , mnhvuxz/